

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01047 151159Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1047

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MPOL, MNUC, SW, UR
SUBJECT: GOS RESPONSE TO BREZHNEV LETTER ON NEUTRON BOMB

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROVIDED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS COPY OF
PM FALLDIN'S RESPONSE TO JANUARY 5, 1978 LETTER FROM BREZHNEV
REGARDING THE NEUTRON WEAPON. FALLDIN LETTER IS BRIEF,
RECALLS PREVIOUS SWEDISH STATEMENTS OPPOSING NEUTRON WEAPON
AND "ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS," AND EXPRESSES HOPE FOR EARLY
PROGRESS TOWARD SALT AGREEMENT CONTAINING "REAL LIMITATIONS."
FALLDIN LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 28 WAS HANDED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR
PERSONALLY ON THE SAME DAY. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF
JANUARY 5, 1978, REGARDING THE NEUTRON WEAPON, THE CONTENTS
OF WHICH I HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED. THE GENERAL VIEW
OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS WELL
KNOWN. SWEDEN HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS. FOR MANY YEARS SWEDEN HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED
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IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
AND TO PREVENT FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF THESE WEAPONS.
REGARDING THE ISSUE MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER, I.E.,
THE NEUTRON WEAPON, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS STATED
ITS POSITION CLEARLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. AS YOU NOTED
YOURSELF, THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MRS. KARIN SODER, DEALT WITH THIS ISSUE IN HER SPEECH

TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 29 SEPTEMBER 1977. SHE SAID THEN, INTER ALIA, THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY EVERY DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS WHICH COULD CONSTITUTE A DIRECTLY DESTABILIZING FACTOR. "THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US. SO ARE ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS." IN ADDITION, MRS. SODER HAS GIVEN A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW IN A SPEECH IN THE RIKSDAG ON 7 NOVEMBER 1977. AFTER THESE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONTINUING ARMS RACE. STILL, WE ASSUME THAT PROGRESS NOW WILL BE MADE IN THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE BOTH A NEW SALT AGREEMENT, WHICH CONTAINS REAL LIMITATIONS, AND AN AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY, SWEDEN MAINTAINS THE VIEW THAT EVERY MEASURE SHOULD BE AVOIDED WHICH MAY INCREASE GLOBAL TENSION OR THE RISK THAT NUCLEAR ARMS MAY BE PUT TO USE. THIS IS THE BACKGROUND TO THE STRONG STAND OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON AS ONE OF SEVERAL WORRYING EXAMPLES OF A FURTHER QUALITATIVE ARMS RACE. NO COUNTRY HAS YET DECIDED TO ADD THE NEUTRON WEAPON TO ITS STOCK OF ARMS. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE EITHER. YOURS FAITHFULLY, THORBJORN FALLDIN. UNQTE PERRY

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Message Attributes

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